

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kenji ASAKURA et al. Group Art Unit : 3742  
Appl. No. : 10/541,498 (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2003/016430)  
I.A. Filed : December 22, 2003 Examiner : Daniel L. ROBINSON  
Confirmation No.: 2005  
For : IMAGE HEATING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING  
APPARATUS

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of January 9, 2008, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on April 9, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this Response.

**Remarks** begin on page 14 of this Response.